



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SEEKS TO INSURE SAFETY OF WILD FOWL

In response to numerous petitions recommending an immediate reduction in bag limits on wild ducks and geese and requests for an expression of the views of the Department of Agriculture on the subject, Secretary Wallace announces that since the first migratory bird law became effective, March 4, 1913, the department has received many communications from nearly every section of the country indicating a very substantial increase in migratory birds, particularly wild ducks and geese. He states, however, that some persons assert that migratory birds, especially migratory wild fowl, while having increased greatly in numbers for some years after the Migratory Bird Law became effective, have really decreased during the past few years and that impressions of an increase are gained because some of the birds now are concentrated in existing areas untouched by the drainage operations that have destroyed such a large portion of their former homes.

In order that the Migratory Bird Treaty, Act and Regulations may be efficiently administered, the department constantly seeks and is receiving information concerning migratory bird conditions, and will continue to acquire additional data on this subject. The National Outdoor Recreation Conference adopted a resolution recommending suitable reductions in bag limits where necessary and Mr. Chauncey J. Hamlin, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Conference, at the request of the committee, has requested the department to carry on an investigation to determine whether waterfowl are increasing or decreasing in the United States. In compliance with this request, the Biological Survey of the department has sent out a questionnaire to conservation societies, sportsmen's and game protective associations, State and Provincial game departments, and the game wardens of the Biological Survey, its collaborators, and its scientific observers, to obtain up-to-date information concerning the present status of migratory birds and the condition of their breeding, feeding, and resting places. The data gathered will be given careful consideration by the department, as well as by its advisory board, and also will be available for use of the National Outdoor Recreation Conference.

The department wishes to make clear that it is fully awake to the importance of keeping in constant touch with migratory bird conditions and that it will not hesitate to take any step needed and which lies in its power to insure the future safety of wild fowl and the perpetuation of wild-fowl hunting in the United States.